GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4038
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
DRUG TESTING LABORATORIES
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up a blueprint to set up more food and drug testing laboratories and upgrade existing ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the functions and number of labs to be set up;

(c) the estimated cost involved therein;

(d) whether these labs will be able to detect genetically modified food, contaminants and newer strains of pathogens in food entering Indian market;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether none of the existing labs is capable of detecting banned contaminants in edible items as per international standards;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government proposes to impart training of international standard to the laboratory staff; and

(i) if so, the concrete steps taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) Under the World Bank Assisted Capacity Building Project for food and drugs 17 existing food laboratories are being strengthened and 14 new food testing laboratories are being set up both in the Center and State sector. In case of drugs 13 existing laboratories are being upgraded and 1 new laboratory is being set up. In addition 5 new combined food and drug laboratory are being set up in the country. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 62.24 crores.

d) & (e) Yes, Sir. At least one laboratory in each of the state will be able to detect contaminants and newer stains of pathogens in food and Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore and National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad will be able to detect Genetically Modified Food (GM) contaminants.

f) & (g) Some of the existing laboratories are capable of detecting almost all contaminants as per International Standards.

h) to
(i) Yes sir. National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Mohali (Punjab) is conducting training for, inter-alia the staff of drug testing laboratories. Central Food Laboratories Kolkata, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore and Food Research and Standardization Laoratory, Ghaziabad are conducting training Programmes for the laboratory staff of the food laboratories.